



THE LATE JOHN FIFE, M. D.

It is seldom that the funeral of a physician is such a sad and impressive event that the business of the community stops; it is equally seldom that we find the serious and important lay citizens of a community collecting subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of a deceased physician. True, few physicians so grow into the hearts and lives of the people about them, so impress themselves upon the entire habit of life of a community, as did John Fife. The name of John Fife stands out prominently in the list of "country doctors" even in a state like California where we have had, and have, so many remarkable men of this class—the ideal "country doctor," the man who always keeps up-to-date, whose work never ends, who is physician, surgeon, specialist, friend, comforter, adviser, companion, who joys in the joy of living and doing; an honorable, upright gentleman.

John Fife was born near Ogden, Utah, in 1860, his parents being on the long road across the plains. As a boy he worked in a drug store at Carson, Nevada, and later went to New York to study. In 1882 he was graduated in medicine from the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York, and in the summer of that year he went to Red Bluff to practice; and there he remained, growing more steadily into the hearts of the people of the community up to the day of his death, May 20th, 1912. It is characteristic of the great modesty of the man that there is not a single photograph of him that can be found, except the one above, which is taken from a snap-shot.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by Fred I. Lackenbach.

Neosalvarsan.

(Ehrlich's Modification of Salvarsan.)

In the course of recent investigations having in view the preparation of readily-soluble and neutral-

reacting derivatives of salvarsan, Professor Ehrlich observed that formaldehyde sulphoxylates are capable of retarding for a considerable period the auto-oxidation of salvarsan solutions.

These observations led to the discovery of a new derivative of salvarsan which is obtained by the action of formaldehyde-sulphoxylate on dioxydiamido-arsenobenzene. This, it is stated, is a condensation product of formaldehyde-sulphoxylate of sodium and salvarsan.

Neosalvarsan is said to contain as the active constituent, dioxydiamido-arsenobenzene-mono-methane sulphinate of sodium ($C_{12}H_{11}O_2AsN_2 \cdot CH_2O \cdot SONa$), together with indifferent inorganic salts. It consists of a yellowish powder of a peculiar odor and dissolves very easily in water with completely neutral reaction.

This product is said to possess the following advantages over salvarsan: It dissolves very readily in water, yielding a solution of completely neutral reaction. It is better tolerated and may be administered in larger doses. Its activity is at least as good as that of salvarsan. It is suitable for intramuscular injection.

Neosalvarsan may be administered by intravenous or intramuscular injection. Subcutaneous injections should at all times be avoided because of the danger of infiltrations. The solutions should be prepared with freshly-distilled, sterilized water which for administration should be at the room temperature—not above 20-22° C. (68 to 71.6° F.). The water must be warmed before, and not after, the neosalvarsan is added. A 0.4 per cent. saline solution may also be used for the preparation, provided it is made from chemically pure sodium chloride and freshly distilled water. If freshly distilled water is not available, well-boiled, sterile tap water may be employed if it is practically free from bacteria and does not contain too large a quantity of mineral salts. The solutions must on no account be left standing or kept in stock, as they oxidize even more readily than those of salvarsan. They must be injected immediately after their preparation. Each dose, it is advised, should be freshly prepared for each individual patient.

For intravenous injection 25.0 cc. freshly distilled water is required for each 0.15 gram neosalvarsan. For intramuscular injections, an approximately five per cent. solution is employed—1.0 gram neosalvarsan dissolved in 22.0 cc. water gives an isotonic solution. For each 0.15 gram neosalvarsan consequently, about 3.0 cc. freshly distilled water should be used for the solution. In intramuscular injection, Novocain may be employed as a local anesthetic, 5.0 cc. of a one-half per cent. solution.

Neosalvarsan is marketed in sealed ampoules ranging from Dose No. 1 containing 0.15 gram up to Dose No. 6 containing six times that quantity, 0.9 gram. This latter quantity is equivalent to 0.6 gram salvarsan, corresponding to about three grains arsenic.

The selection of the proper dose, the number of injections to administer, and the intervals between the injections, are dependent upon the stage of the disease, the constitution of the patient, and the age and sex. As a general rule the dose of neosalvarsan corresponds to that of salvarsan.

The most recent advices from Professor Ehrlich give the average dose for a man as 0.6 to 0.75 gram; for a woman 0.45 to 0.6 gram. The maximum dose should not exceed 0.9 gram for a man, and 0.75 gram for a woman. For children the dose is according to age, from 0.15 to 0.3 gram down to 0.05 for infants. The disposition in the employment of these compounds is to use smaller, repeated dosage, and combine the treatment with mercury.

The following are named as contraindications: Serious derangement of the circulation; advanced degeneration of the central nervous system; foetid bronchitis as well as cachexia, if not a direct con-

sequence of syphilis, the remedy is contraindicated, likewise for such patients as exhibit a decided idiosyncrasy against arsenic; in lues cerebri or meningitis, especially in early meningitis, caution should be exercised in the dosage and the treatment commenced with small doses. No contraindication is afforded by diabetes, nephritis, or tuberculosis, except in advanced cases, nor by pregnancy.

NEWS NOTES FROM NEWSPAPERS.

Turlock is to have a hospital to be built by the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Stockton is to have a new \$100,000 hospital to take the place of the old St. Joseph's Home.

Poliomyelitis is reported to have attacked the Moqui Indians shortly after the snake dance.

"Social Work" has been the subject of a number of addresses by Dr. Cabot during his visit to California.

In August some 30 cases of poliomyelitis were reported in California in places outside of Los Angeles.

Solano County is to have a new county hospital to be located at Fairfield and to cost approximately \$100,000.

Dr. C. P. V. Watson has been sentenced to two years in the State penitentiary for performing an abortion.

San Bernardino has appointed an assistant health officer who is to take charge of a cleaning-up campaign.

San Diego, through its district attorney, is making an active fight against quacks and illegal practitioners.

Hanford is to have two new hospitals; construction work on them has been begun. They are to cost about \$40,000.

St. Helena Sanitarium has been sued for \$23,000 for burning a patient (hot water bottle?) while under an anesthetic.

Agnew State Hospital has adopted military drill for some of the patients and it is said to be working very successfully.

Santa Barbara County is to have a new hospital, the plans for which have been drawn and accepted. It is to cost about \$200,000.

Dr. A. P. O'Brien, a member of the San Francisco Board of Health, was severely injured recently while on a fishing trip.

Knob and Harrison Gulch are having a severe epidemic of typhoid fever. Many people are leaving and going into Trinity County.

Oakland is to provide a nurse for the anti-tuberculosis society and thus relieve the society of that burden and allow it to extend its work.

Dr. E. B. Hoag, formerly of Pasadena and later School Health Officer of Berkeley, has been appointed State Health Officer of Minnesota.

Riverside has taken on new activity in the cleaning-up line and is to force some of its citizens to clean their premises even if they do not want to.

San Francisco will have to close its chemical and bacteriological laboratories for lack of funds. There is money for everything except public health.

Santa Clara County Medical Society entertained Dr. Richard Cabot, of Harvard, on September 18th at dinner, after which he read a paper to the society.

Coalinga is to have a muzzling ordinance rigidly enforced since it has been demonstrated to the citizens there that rabies actually exists in the vicinity.

Chico is the proud possessor of a new "motor cop" and he was unkind enough to arrest some of the local doctors for speeding; he will not be a popular man.

Dr. W. T. Burks of Fresno has been sued for \$20,000 for alleged malpractice. Dr. Burks, unfortunately for himself, is not a member of the State Society.

San Jose is considering the adoption of six ordi-

nances which have been prepared by Dr. M. F. Hopkins, dealing with general health measures, flies, dirt, etc.

Typhoid seems to be epidemic in several places and its source has not been definitely determined. In Sacramento it has been giving the authorities much uneasiness.

Dr. A. H. Wright, of San Francisco, has been convicted of murder in the second degree. Mrs. Hattie Brown, a woman on whom he performed an abortion, died.

Alameda County has at last begun to move in the direction of a new county hospital; resolutions have been adopted calling for an architect and expert study of the problem.

Alameda County schools are to have regular medical inspection, if it can be brought about, as the citizens of Oakland have had a chance to see what good results have followed Dr. Foster's work in the schools of that city.

The case of the sculptor Potter, who died in Seattle while under the care of a Chinese "doctor," has attracted much attention and been productive of some excellent editorials in the lay press on the danger of incompetent medical attendance.

Dr. Enoch, who brought suit for slander against a druggist, forgot to put up the necessary bond and was surprised, when the case came into court, to see it thrown out and a bill for \$103 handed to him. It must have been quite unpleasant!

Orange County Society has adopted resolutions urging the creation of a society for dealing with Social Disease Prophylaxis, recommending that a health certificate shall be required for marriage and urging sterilization of criminals, mental defectives, etc.

Santa Ana has started a vigorous campaign against dirt and is to clean itself thoroughly. One good thing seems to have come out of the epidemic in the South; many cities and towns are getting cleaner than any one ever dreamt they would or could be.

Speaking of the ordinance relating to poliomyelitis, the Long Beach "Telegram" calls it "that paralyzing ordinance" and says that it has cost the Pike concessionaires at least \$100,000. It does not refer to the fact that immediate and effective quarantine saved many lives; certainly not; it is only interested in immediate dollars.

Los Angeles County Medical Association held its first annual banquet on September 3rd. About 250 attended. Speeches were made by Dr. A. S. Loring, Dr. F. C. E. Mattison, Dr. F. M. Pottenger, Hon. J. M. Elliott, Hon. Frank Tyrrell and Dr. Philip Mills Jones. It was much in the nature of a boost for the projected building of the Association.

Sonora and vicinity have been having a lot of typhoid and the State Board of Health was asked to look into the matter. It must have been somewhat pleasant to send a report to Sonora calling attention to a report made by Dr. Foster in 1909 in which he pointed out the dangerous nature of the water supply and practically prophesied what has since happened.

The Los Angeles "Tribune," said to be owned by an eddyite, takes the position that the "Chronicle" in San Francisco did in relation to plague. The "Tribune" is cocksure that there is no such thing as poliomyelitis and refers to the epidemic in Los Angeles as "the deliberately fomented scare." Perhaps the world is flat, from the "Tribune's" point of view.

Mr. John Borchard has given \$10,000 toward a Sisters' Hospital in Oxnard. They have a site of 10 acres and a temporary hospital accommodating 10 patients. It is expected to erect a hospital costing \$30,000 or \$40,000, which will be known as the St. John's Hospital, some time during the coming year.

Poliomyelitis in the South continues to be of interest though the acute stage of the epidemic